United Nations

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's report based on findings of high-level mission sent to Baghdad to ensure Iraq's compliance with nuclear inspection team is presented to President of Security Council.

- New IAEA inspection team leaves Vienna for Baghdad.

- Economic and Social Council holds two-day high-level meeting on impact of evolution of East-West relations on global economy.

- Secretary-General pays first-ever visit to Liechtenstein.

- Secretary-General, in report to General Assembly, appeals to Member States to make advance payments to meet initial expenses of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II).

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A United Nations spokesman informed correspondents today that the report of the Secretary-General based on the findings of the high-level mission he had sent to Baghdad was presented this morning to the President of the Security Council, Cuban Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada.

The mission, comprising the Executive Chairman of the Security Council's Special Commission, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus of Sweden; the Executive Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix; and Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Yasushi Akashi, discussed with Iraqi authorities immediate access to all nuclear sites for IAEA inspectors, as well as the question of their security.

The report was discussed today by the Security Council during informal consultations. Annexed to the report was a communication from President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, which was received by the Secretary-General this morning in response to a message the Secretary-General handed over yesterday to the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador Barzan Ibrahim Al-Takriti. The Secretary-General's message, addressed to the Iraqi leader, dealt with various aspects of the visit of the nuclear inspection team to Baghdad.

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In a related development, an IAEA inspection team composed of 38 experts and support staff left Vienna yesterday for Baghdad, in order to carry out inspection activities at a number of sites in Iraq. The sites will include new locations designated to IAEA by the Special Commission established pursuant to Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

This is the third inspection team sent to Iraq by IAEA and, like the first two, it will have the assistance and cooperation of the Special Commission.

Meanwhile, the second IAEA inspection team has completed its work. It withdrew to Bahrain on 3 July in order to prepare its report, which will be submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.

It has been stated that neither the Agency nor its third inspection team will be making any public statements until the visit is completed.

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The United Nations Economic and Social Council held a two-day high-level meeting in Geneva to discuss the impact of the recent evolution in East/West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries as well as on international economic cooperation.

Addressing the Council as it began the meeting yesterday, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said the international community must see to it that assistance to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union should be truly "additional" and serve a productive purpose. There should be no diversion or reduction of official development assistance destined for developing countries. The policies of rich countries regarding commerce, finance and investment should accord particular importance to the needs of the developing nations.

Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Foreign Minister of Algeria, said the world was witness to a new Marshall Plan: the South to North net negative transfer of financial resources exceeding $100 billion. The granting of trade advantages by the European Economic Community (EEC) might wipe out meagre gains made by developing countries, and result in a diversion of advantageous financial factors impacting on the South.

Kofi Awoonor of Ghana, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries, said that as Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union prepared to join the mainstream of the international economy, they must seek to change the inequitable international economic system to one based on true partnership from which all the peoples of the world could benefit.

Speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, J. Pronk, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, said while,

initially, problems might arise for developing countries, due to the restructuring of trade patterns in Eastern Europe and to a certain overlapping in export interests, this trend was likely to be offset by the opening of new markets in Eastern Europe.

William Draper III, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said despite the excitement generated by Eastern Europe, the greatest development challenges remained in the least developed countries. It was through human development that economic growth could be hastened and ecological devastation halted. Spending on priority social needs accounted for less than one-tenth of the total public spending in the developing world, and he suggested that aid from the industrialized countries must be increased and directed to priority human needs. Military spending should be curbed in both developed and developing countries, and the lifting of agricultural trade barriers would generate nearly $100 billion extra a year for developing countries.

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Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar was in Liechtenstein today for the first-ever official visit by a Secretary-General to that country, the latest Member of the United Nations. On his arrival last night from Geneva, the Secretary-General and Mrs. Pérez de Cuéllar were guests for dinner of Prince Hans-Adam and Princess Marie of Liechtenstein at Vaduz Castle, where they are staying during their official visit.

Today, the Secretary-General met for one hour with Hans Brunhart, Prime Minister of the Principality, for a review of international problems now before the United Nations. The Secretary-General briefed the Prime Minister on his efforts regarding such problems, among others, as the situations relating to Iraq-Kuwait and the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, Afghanistan and Central America.

Following his official visit to Liechtenstein, the Secretary-General leaves tomorrow for a short private visit to Istanbul, where he will receive an honorary degree from Istanbul University. The Secretary-General will also have talks on Monday with President Ozal of Turkey.

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The Secretary-General has appealed to Member States to make advances, as well as outright grants on a voluntary basis, to meet the initial expenses of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), pending formal action by the General Assembly.

The appeal was contained in a report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the Mission. The net cost of UNAVEM II, which will verify the recent cease-fire agreement, is estimated at $121 million from 1 June 1991 to 31 October 1992.

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